

28. A hybrid PKS gene according to claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid portions encode combinatorial modules each extending between corresponding domains of two natural modules.

29. A hybrid PKS gene according to claim 1 including nucleic acid encoding a chain terminating enzyme other than thioesterase.

30. A hybrid PKS gene according to claim 1 wherein said at least one second nucleic acid portion comprises a portion encoding an extension module leading to a ketide unit differing from the natural unit in at least one of the following characteristics: oxidation state; stereochemistry; substitution pattern.

31. Nucleic acid encoding a gene according to claim 1 operably linked to a PKS type II promoter.

32. Nucleic acid according to claim 11 wherein the promoter is accompanied by its natural activator gene.

33. Nucleic acid according to claim 31 wherein the promoter is act I of S. coelicolor.

34. Nucleic acid according to claim 32 wherein the promoter is act I of S. coelicolor.

35. A hybrid polyketide synthase as encoded by a gene according to claim

36. A vector including a gene according to claim 1.

37. A transformed organism containing a gene according to claim 1 and able to express a polyketide synthase encoded thereby.

38. A method of producing an organism as defined in claim 37 comprising